

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 /072 W

----- 057904

O R 161524Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 272

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIETIANE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CB

SUBJECT: SOVIET COVERAGE OF "MAYAGUEZ" INCIDENT

REF: STATE 113030

1. SOVIET MEDIA REPORTED WITHOUT SHARP RHETORIC THE U.S. OPERATION TO FREE THE MAYEGUEZ. IZVESTIY (MAY 15) IMPLIED DISAPPROVAL OF THE OPERATION BY REFERRING TO AN AFP REPORT THAT THE CAMBODIANS HAD AGREED LATE ON MAY 14 TO RELEASE THE SHIP, BUT THAT THE U.S. WENT AHEAD WITH THE OPERATION. UNDER THE HEADLINE "WAR ACTS OF THE U.S.A. NEAR THE COAST OF CAMBODIA," PRAVDA (MAY 16) CARRIED A TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING THE DETAILS OF THE OPERATION AND THE CAMBODIAN STATEMENT ALLEGING THAT THE SHIP WAS ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTED CRITICAL COMMENTS BY U.S. PUBLIC FIGURES AND BY BANGKOK AND U.K. NEWSPAPERS.

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2. COMMENT: DESPITE THE INDIRECT CRITICISM CONTAINED IN THIS COVERAGE, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED AND FAIRLY STRAIGHT. MOSCOW MAY FEEL THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO GAIN BY CRITICAL NOISES AT THE U.S. ON A MATTER THEY COULD NOT AFFECT BEFORE ITS FINAL DENOUEMENT. LIKEWISE THEY APPARENTLY FEEL NO SPECIAL NEED TO APPLAUD THE CAMBODIANS. THEY DID NOT MENTION THE SHIP'S POSITION AT THE TIME OF ITS SEIZURE, PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO TAKE A POSITION WHICH CAN BE USED AGAINST THEIR OWN LOS VIEWS ON INNOCENT PASSAGE. WE EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO LET THE INCIDENT PASS, ALTHOUGH MOSCOW WILL PROBABLY ISSUED A COMMENTARY OR A TASS STATMENT FOR THE RECORDS.

3. WE TELEPHONED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 113030 TO MFA USA DIVISION AND DCM, IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE IN LENINGRAD, FOLLOWED UP WITH LETTER TO DIVISION CHIEF KORNIYENKO. WE HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SHIP DETENTION, MAYAGUEZ SS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW06813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-1206
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750545/aaaabomn.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 113030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET COVERAGE OF "MAYAGUEZ" INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CB
To: STATE
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